

In 1987, Garrick Feldman and his wife, Eileen, published the first edition of *The Leader*, a community-oriented weekly newspaper that strove to serve all of its readers "without fear or favor."

Today, the Feldmans, with the help of their dedicated staff, bring Arkansans in Pulaski, Lonoke, White, and Prairie counties the important news that affects their lives.

The *Leader's* coverage of our local schools' academic and athletic accomplishments serves as a reminder of the talent throughout the community and the promise of the future.

Over the past quarter-century, *The Leader* has experienced tremendous growth, earning the title, "the best large weekly in Arkansas" for the past four years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating *The Leader* on their accomplishments during their twenty-five years in business and in wishing them continued success.

Mr. Speaker, *The Leader* recently published an article highlighting this milestone, and I submit it in the RECORD.

[From the *Leader*, Mar. 17., 2012]
 NEWSPAPER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS
 (By Eileen Feldman)

In the first issue of *The Leader* on March 4, 1987, publisher Garrick Feldman said, "The North Pulaski *Leader* intends to be a mirror to the community—to report all that is newsworthy in Jacksonville, Sherwood, the air base and surrounding areas . . . We want to chronicle the events, both small and large, that are taking place here . . . The newspaper also promises to serve its advertisers well."

He continued, "This newspaper will be about you and your neighbors, so let us hear from you if you have news to share with others."

Twenty-five years later, *The Leader* is keeping its promise of delivering community news for an affordable subscription price and delivering consistent results for advertisers through a combination of mail (with its free edition, *The Extra*) and home delivery to subscribers in an expanded local area which now includes Pulaski County from Sherwood and Gravel Ridge to Jacksonville to Little Rock Air Force Base. The *Leader* is also serving all of Cabot and most of Lonoke County including Lonoke, Austin, Ward and Carlisle and the surrounding rural confines. In White County, *The Leader* serves Beebe, McRae, El Paso, Garner and Butlerville and to a lesser extent Searcy including many White County rural routes. The *Leader's* reach also extends into Prairie County giving our advertisers an even bigger bonus for their buck.

By all accounts, *The Leader* has grown by leaps and bounds and we want to thank you, dear readers and also our advertisers for your steadfast loyalty to *The Leader* and to the American dream.

Some of our advertisers have been with us since the beginning, and to you we extend our gratitude and our wishes for your continued success in business. May we continue to grow together.

What publisher Feldman said then still holds true today, "Share with us our joys and sorrows—your proud moments and your sad ones. The news that ordinary people make is just as important to us as what their leaders do on city councils and school boards."

And it still holds true today that "if you have an engagement or wedding announcement, send us the announcement and also a photo. If there is a birth in your family, send us a picture also."

Of course, times have changed in 25 years so we now accept all this by e-mail at leadernewsarkansasleader.com or at editor@arkansasleader.com. But we still do some things the old-fashioned way—mailed submissions are still accepted and cards of thanks and obituaries are still free.

We love to cover our local schools and encourage teachers to let us know of their students' accomplishments and awards as well as their own.

We still consider covering significant birthdays, centenarians in particular, and submitted photos are always welcome. Letters to the editor are always welcome. We want to hear the voice of the community.

We also pride ourselves on our local sports coverage including football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and soccer and also local news which impacts sports. Coaches comments and local submissions of news tips and photos help to give flavor to those pages.

As we said back in 1987, "This newspaper will try to serve all of its readers without fear or favor. The *Leader* intends to open its pages to everyone."

We also want to extend a big thank you to the many on our staff including our son Jonathan, who joined our staff as an editor and who will help us continue to produce a strong family-owned and community-oriented newspaper.

We wish to thank our veteran reporters, Rick Kron, Joan McCoy and John Hofheimer, who rejoined the staff after a brief hiatus and a visit to Greece. All journalism award winners, they've helped make *The Leader* what it is today.

Also Christy Hendricks, our creative designer, as well as Jeffrey Smith, who has come a long way since his first days at *The Leader* and who's made many friends with his Cabot and Beebe coverage. Sarah Campbell, an ASU-Jonesboro grad, has local roots in the area, which have helped her ferret out some outstanding local stories.

Sports editor Ray Benton's attention to local sports is outstanding and caters to our greater local area with the help of veteran sportswriter Jason King.

We also wish to thank our advertising staff led by General Manager John Henderson and our Publications Manager Matt Robinson. Also invaluable members of the sales staff are Linda Hostetler and Susan Swift. You've stuck with us through thick and thin, through the idiosyncracies of the economy, its ups and downs.

We couldn't have done it without you. You've all helped us get to where we are today.

There are many other staff members—designers, artists and photographers—who should be singled out for their loyalty and outstanding work ethic. And there are many more starting at the front office and on to the pressroom and mailroom, where the final product is prepared which arrives at your front door or in your mailbox. (We'll introduce them all to you in a later edition.)

Readers, advertisers and staff, you have helped *The Leader* become what it is today. Continue to grow and thrive with us.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT L. TURNER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of State

Representative Robert L. Turner. Representative Turner was first elected in 1990 and has served in the Wisconsin State Assembly for eleven consecutive terms. While representing the eastern half of the City of Racine, he has utilized his booming voice to become an advocate for issues such as criminal justice, urban affairs, racial equality, and veterans affairs.

Public service has always been a cornerstone of Representative Turner's life. After graduating high school in Mississippi and moving to Wisconsin, he was soon drafted into the United States Air Force. He bravely answered his country's call and completed tours of duty in both Vietnam, where he received a Medal of Commendation for meritorious service, and Korea during the *Pueblo* incident. Representative Turner turned his experience in the armed forces into a lifelong promise to support and encourage local veterans groups. During his first term in the Assembly, Representative Turner earned a perfect rating on veterans issues and was named to the All Star Team by the State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Additionally, his legislative work earned him the Vietnam Veterans of America Distinguished Achievement Award in 1992 and he received life membership from the Vietnam Veterans of America in 1999.

Representative Turner has served on numerous committees during his time in the Wisconsin State Assembly, lending his expertise to everything from the Highways and Transportation Committee to the Judiciary Committee. His overwhelmingly friendly demeanor gives Representative Turner a unique ability to build close working relationships that extend far beyond party affiliations. While representing an area hit especially hard by the recent economic downturn, Representative Turner has consistently supported new economic development projects, increases in unemployment benefits, and affordable, quality health care for his constituency.

In addition to his tenure in the Assembly, Representative Turner also served on the Racine City Council for 28 years from 1976 to 2004. As both a State Representative and an Alder, he developed close relationships with many local organizations such as the NAACP, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha, and the Racine Raider Football team.

I had the honor of serving with Representative Turner in the Assembly for three terms and I am proud to continue to call him a close friend today. His service to his constituents and the City of Racine has always been a source of inspiration for me. To understand who Representative Turner truly is, one only needs to know that he considers one of his biggest accomplishments being able to serve, listen to, and assist his constituents for so long. Without fail, every time I see Bob, the only thing bigger than the smile on his face is the warm embrace I receive from him.

It is nearly impossible to mention everything Representative Turner has accomplished; it is even harder to overstate the positive impact he has had on our community. It is without a doubt that his work has bettered the lives of the people of Racine, Wisconsin, and our great nation. Today, I rise to honor and thank State Representative Robert L. Turner for his more than two decades of leadership in the Wisconsin State Assembly. May Bob's unwavering dedication, vision, and never-ending smile serve as an inspiration for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL OREGON
VETERANS OUTREACH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO) for their tireless efforts on behalf of homeless veterans in Oregon's Second District. Since its founding in 2005 by members of the Bend/La Pine Vietnam Veterans of America, COVO has grown from a handful of concerned veterans reaching out to other veterans in the homeless camps around the area to a full-fledged non-profit organization with countless volunteers, a dedicated staff, and a truly professional board of directors.

In the early years of this organization, a small group of Vietnam veterans took it upon themselves to visit homeless camps on the High Desert, providing much needed supplies and support to those veterans who fell upon hard times and were in desperate need of a hand up. Today, COVO has a full time staff that coordinates continuing volunteer efforts to deliver food, water, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, and propane to the region's homeless camps. In addition to making weekly trips with supplies, COVO has transformed a van into a mobile medical clinic that is staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and medical staff who provide free care to the homeless population each week. This is an invaluable service to those in need.

COVO continues to provide free assistance to veterans in the form of benefits claim-filing, bus passes, medical shuttle reservations, and assistance with accessing resources like the HUD VASH housing voucher program and transitional housing at their 6-bed "Home of the Brave" facility. COVO continues to advocate for those veterans who are most in need of assistance and who are unable to be their own voice in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, we like to say, "We will never forget what our veterans have done for our way of life." They put their lives on the line for this country, and we cannot turn our backs on them. Any of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing COVO for their staunch and invaluable advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable veterans: President Linda Heatley; Secretary/Treasurer Rob Bryce; Directors Susan Steves, Craig Jorgensen, Rickie Gunn, Jerry Chinn, Dan Lauderback, Lauri Imholt, and Dr. Elizabeth Leeburg; Executive Director Chuck Hemingway; Counselors Alex Weiss and Allen Wilson; Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program staff Steve Wilkes, Ruth Clark, and Yvonne Devine; Outreach Coordinator Lisa Miller; Volunteer Coordinator Kim Darling; Office Administrator and DAV Shuttle Coordinator Chuck Man; Housing Manager Steve Haupt, and; Veteran Service Officer Patricia White and VSO Intern Kim Burger.

Mr. Speaker, the staff, board, and volunteers who comprise COVO deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for all they have done and continue to do for the veterans of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

IN HONOR OF CORRINE CODY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corrine Cody, who passed away on Saturday March 3, 2012. Mrs. Cody was originally from Queens, New York, but she moved to Bucks County Pennsylvania with her husband and children in 1966 and remained in Doylestown for 45 years. Corrine worked for the Central Bucks School District for almost 30 years, where she taught elementary students for 15 years, served as principal for several years, and finished her career as a teacher in the gifted program.

Mrs. Cody was incredibly passionate about teaching. One of her greatest accomplishments was creating the Central Bucks School District's program for gifted students. At one point in her career, Corrine actually decided to leave her job as principal at Paul W. Kutz Elementary School because she believed she could do even more to help children reach their full potential. She would go on to become the coordinator of the social studies and science curriculum for all C.B. elementary schools.

Her teaching and activism went beyond the classroom too. Corrine worked closely with the Peace Valley Nature Center to start a program that would teach fifth and sixth graders about clean water, storm water runoff, and other aspects of the Bucks County environment. As a member of the Bucks County League of Women Voters, she was instrumental in the formation of the Kids Voting program in Central Bucks. Corrine also played a huge role in the development of the Doylestown bike and hike trail, which many of my constituents take advantage of today.

Mrs. Cody leaves behind an inspirational legacy on generations of Bucks County children. I am proud and pleased to speak on her behalf today, and am grateful for all that she did for our area.

ROBY ANNOUNCES

CONGRESSIONAL PEANUT CAUCUS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Peanut Caucus that I have co-founded with Representative SAMFORD BISHOP. The caucus will serve as an informal group of Members of Congress dedicated to all issues related to peanuts and the role they play in on our Nation's agriculture industry.

Representative BISHOP and I formed this caucus to promote and support peanut production—a crucial part of the agriculture industry in the Southern States we represent. Representative BISHOP has been a strong force in shaping Federal policies to advance the U.S. peanut industry and ensure it remains competitive. I am grateful for the opportunity to work on this initiative with such a strong advocate.

Agriculture remains the number one industry in my State of Alabama, and has been a top

priority for me since taking office. The peanut industry—specifically—is an essential and recognizable commodity for Alabama. Seven States account for approximately 99% of all peanuts grown in the U.S. Alabama is among the top few States, along with Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi that produces a major share of our Nation's peanut crop.

Our country's reliance on domestic agricultural production is rising with continuous population growth. Peanuts are the 12th most valuable cash crop grown in the United States with a farm value of over one billion dollars. The World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development are both looking at peanuts and peanut producers as vital components in fighting global malnutrition. In addition, the spectrum of new and emerging research related to peanuts and health is broadening quickly. The application of this research may lead to a better understanding of ways to reduce the risk of certain diseases, including Type Two diabetes and some cancers. Therefore, we must ensure that our farmers across the Nation have the resources necessary to maintain successful peanut crops from year to year.

Congressional Caucuses are an important way to increase awareness of principal issues and identify legislative priorities. As Representatives, it is our responsibility to bring the voices of farmers from all over the country to the forefront of the discussion and to ensure that all of their interests are fairly represented. Members of the Peanut Caucus will have the ability to collectively advocate in Congress for peanut farmers and producers of this important crop.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I begin to prepare for the next Farm Bill, we believe it must contain provisions that are beneficial to American farmers, while also maintaining fiscal restraint. With that in mind, it is my hope that this Caucus will serve as a working group for members from our Nation's peanut States and will help streamline communication between Congressional offices. I urge any interested colleague to join us on the Peanut Caucus, and I look forward to working with Chairman LUCAS and the House Agriculture Committee on the next Farm Bill as we consider legislative issues that affect our Nation's peanut farmers.

HEAVY TRUCK TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more essential to restoring the economy, revitalizing our communities, and protecting our environment than the effort to rebuild and renew America. The U.S. faces steep infrastructure challenges. Our infrastructure inventory is in poor repair and much of it is outdated—not just decades, but often centuries old. Our effort to rebuild and renew that infrastructure is stalled because of a funding impasse. The Highway Trust Fund nearly exhausted its funding several times recently and it is clear that our existing funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet our current, much less future, needs. Congress must consider new revenue sources to meet our infra-